

# Adjectives and adverbs (1) (quick/quickly)

A

Look at these examples:

- Our holiday was too short – the time went very **quickly**.
- The driver of the car was **seriously** injured in the accident.

**Quickly** and **seriously** are *adverbs*. Many adverbs are made from an adjective + -ly:

*adjective:* quick      serious      careful      quiet      heavy      bad  
*adverb:* quickly      seriously      carefully      quietly      heavily      badly

For spelling, see Appendix 6.

Not all words ending in -ly are adverbs. Some *adjectives* end in -ly too, for example:

friendly      lively      elderly      lonely      silly      lovely

B

*Adjective or adverb?*

Adjectives (**quick/careful** etc.) tell us about a *noun*. We use adjectives before nouns and after some verbs, especially **be**:

- Tom is a **careful driver**. (*not* 'a carefully driver')
- We didn't go out because of the **heavy rain**.
- Please **be quiet**.
- I was disappointed that my exam results were so **bad**.

We also use adjectives after the verbs **look/feel/sound** etc. (see Unit 98D):

- Why do you always **look so serious**?

Compare:

- She speaks **perfect English**.  
*adjective + noun*

Compare these sentences with **look**:

- Tom **looked sad** when I saw him. (= he seemed sad, his expression was sad)

Adverbs (**quickly/carefully** etc.) tell us about a *verb*. An adverb tells us how somebody does something or how something happens:

- Tom **drove carefully** along the narrow road. (*not* 'drove careful')
- We didn't go out because it was **raining heavily**. (*not* 'raining heavy')
- Please **speak quietly**. (*not* 'speak quiet')
- I was disappointed that I **did so badly** in the exam. (*not* 'did so bad')

- Why do you never **take** me seriously?

- She **speaks English perfectly**.  
*verb + object + adverb*

- Tom **looked at me sadly**. (= he looked at me in a sad way)

C

We also use adverbs before *adjectives* and *other adverbs*. For example:

**reasonably** cheap      (*adverb + adjective*)  
**terribly** sorry      (*adverb + adjective*)  
**incredibly** quickly      (*adverb + adverb*)

- It's a **reasonably cheap** restaurant and the food is **extremely good**.
- Oh, I'm **terribly sorry**. I didn't mean to push you. (*not* 'terrible sorry')
- Maria learns languages **incredibly quickly**.
- The examination was **surprisingly easy**.

You can also use an adverb before a *past participle* (**injured/organised/written** etc.):

- Two people were **seriously injured** in the accident. (*not* 'serious injured')
- The meeting was very **badly organised**.

## EXERCISES

**99.1** Complete the sentences with adverbs. The first letter(s) of each adverb are given.

- 1 We didn't go out because it was raining **heavily**...
- 2 Our team lost the game because we played very **ba**.....
- 3 I had little difficulty finding a place to live. I found a flat quite **ea**.....
- 4 We had to wait for a long time but we didn't complain. We waited **pa**.....
- 5 Nobody knew George was coming to see us. He arrived **unex**.....
- 6 Mike keeps fit by playing tennis **reg**.....

**99.2** Put in the right word.

- 1 The driver of the car was **seriously** injured. (serious/seriously)
- 2 The driver of the car had **serious** injuries. (serious/seriously)
- 3 I think you behaved very ..... (selfish/selfishly)
- 4 Rose is ..... upset about losing her job. (terrible/terribly)
- 5 There was a ..... change in the weather. (sudden/suddenly)
- 6 Everybody at the party was ..... dressed. (colourful/colourfully)
- 7 Linda likes wearing ..... clothes. (colourful/colourfully)
- 8 She fell and hurt herself quite ..... (bad/badly)
- 9 He says he didn't do well at school because he was ..... taught. (bad/badly)
- 10 Don't go up that ladder. It doesn't look ..... (safe/safely)
- 11 He looked at me ..... when I interrupted him. (angry/angrily)

**99.3** Complete each sentence using a word from the list. Sometimes you need the adjective (careful etc.) and sometimes the adverb (carefully etc.).

careful(ly)	complete(ly)	continuous(ly)	financial(ly)	fluent(ly)
happy/happily	nervous(ly)	perfect(ly)	<del>quick(ly)</del>	special(ly)

- 1 Our holiday was too short. The time passed very **quickly**....
- 2 Tom doesn't take risks when he's driving. He's always .....
- 3 Sue works ..... She never seems to stop.
- 4 Alice and Stan are very ..... married.
- 5 Monica's English is very ..... although she makes quite a lot of mistakes.
- 6 I cooked this meal ..... for you, so I hope you like it.
- 7 Everything was very quiet. There was ..... silence.
- 8 I tried on the shoes and they fitted me .....
- 9 Do you usually feel ..... before examinations?
- 10 I'd like to buy a car but it's ..... impossible for me at the moment.

**99.4** Choose two words (one from each box) to complete each sentence.

absolutely	<b>reasonably</b>	unusually	<del>cheap</del>	enormous	planned
badly	seriously	unnecessarily	changed	ill	quiet
completely	slightly		damaged	long	

- 1 I thought the restaurant would be expensive but it was **reasonably cheap**....
- 2 George's mother is ..... in hospital.
- 3 What a big house! It's .....
- 4 It wasn't a serious accident. The car was only .....
- 5 The children are normally very lively but they're ..... today.
- 6 When I returned home after 20 years, everything had .....
- 7 The film was ..... It could have been much shorter.
- 8 A lot went wrong during our holiday because it was .....

# Adjectives and adverbs (2) (**well/fast/late, hard/hardly**)

## A

## Good/well

Good is an *adjective*. The *adverb* is **well**:

- Your English is **good**. *but* You **speak** English **well**.
- Susan is a **good** pianist. *but* Susan **plays** the piano **well**.

We use **well** (not 'good') with *past participles* (dressed/known etc.):

**well-dressed**   **well-known**   **well-educated**   **well-paid**

But **well** is also an *adjective* with the meaning 'in good health':

- 'How are you today?' 'I'm very **well**, thanks.' (not 'I'm very good')

## B

## Fast/hard/late

These words are both adjectives and adverbs:

- | <i>adjective</i>                     | <i>adverb</i>                                       |
|--------------------------------------|---|
| ● Jack is a very <b>fast</b> runner. | Jack can <b>run</b> very <b>fast</b> .              |
| ● Ann is a <b>hard</b> worker.       | Ann <b>works</b> <b>hard</b> . (not 'works hardly') |
| ● The train was <b>late</b> .        | I <b>got up</b> <b>late</b> this morning.           |

**Lately** = 'recently'

- Have you seen Tom **lately**?

## C

## Hardly

**Hardly** = very little, almost not. Study these examples:

- Sarah was rather unfriendly to me at the party. She **hardly** spoke to me.  
(= she spoke to me very little, almost not at all)
- George and Hilda want to get married but they've only known each other for a few days. I don't think they should get married yet. They **hardly** know each other.  
(= they know each other very little)

**Hard** and **hardly** are completely different. Compare:

- He tried **hard** to find a job but he had no luck. (= he tried a lot, with a lot of effort)
- I'm not surprised he didn't find a job. He **hardly** tried to find one. (= he tried very little)

We often use **hardly** + **any/anybody/anyone/anything/anywhere**:

- A: How much money have you got?  
B: **Hardly any**. (= very little, almost none)
- I'll have to go shopping. We've got **hardly any** food.
- The exam results were very bad. **Hardly anybody** in our class passed. (= very few students passed, almost nobody passed)
- She ate **hardly anything**. She wasn't feeling hungry. (= she ate very little, almost nothing)

Note the position of **hardly**. You can say:

- She ate **hardly anything**. *or* She **hardly** ate **anything**.
- We've got **hardly any** food. *or* We've **hardly** got **any** food.

We often use **can/could** + **hardly**. I **can hardly** do something = it's almost impossible for me to do it:

- Your writing is terrible. I **can hardly** read it. (= it is almost impossible for me to read it)
- My leg was hurting me. I **could hardly** walk.

**Hardly ever** = almost never

- I'm nearly always at home in the evenings. I **hardly ever** go out.



## EXERCISES

## 100.1 Put in good or well.

- 1 I play tennis but I'm not very good.
- 2 Your exam results were very .....
- 3 You did very ..... in your exams.
- 4 The weather was very ..... while we were on holiday.
- 5 I didn't sleep very ..... last night.
- 6 How are you? Are you ..... ?
- 7 George speaks German very .....
- 8 George's German is very .....
- 9 Our new business is going very ..... at the moment.
- 10 I like your jacket. It looks ..... on you.
- 11 I've met her a few times but I don't know her very .....

## 100.2 Complete these sentences using well + one of the following words:

balanced ~~behaved~~ done dressed informed kept known paid

- 1 The children were very good. They were well-behaved.
- 2 I'm surprised you haven't heard of her. She is quite .....
- 3 Our neighbours' garden is neat and tidy. It is very .....
- 4 You should eat different types of food. Your diet should be .....
- 5 Ann knows a lot about many things. She is quite .....
- 6 His clothes are always smart. He is always .....
- 7 Jill has a lot of responsibility in her job but she isn't very .....
- 8 Congratulations on passing your examinations. ....!

## 100.3 Are the underlined words right or wrong? Correct the ones that are wrong.

- 1 I'm tired because I've been working hard. RIGHT
- 2 I tried hard to remember her name but I couldn't. ....
- 3 This coat is practically unused. I've hardly worn it. ....
- 4 She's a good tennis player. She hits the ball hardly. ....
- 5 Don't walk so fast! I can't keep up with you. ....
- 6 Why are you walking so slow? Are you tired? ....

## 100.4 Write sentences with hardly. Use one of the following verbs (in the correct form):

change hear ~~know~~ recognise say sleep speak

- 1 George and Hilda have only met once before. They hardly know each other.
- 2 You're speaking very quietly. I can ..... you.
- 3 I'm very tired this morning. I ..... last night.
- 4 We were so shocked when we heard the news, we could .....
- 5 Kate was very quiet this evening. She ..... a word.
- 6 You look the same now as you looked 15 years ago. You've .....
- 7 I met Keith a few days ago. I hadn't seen him for a long time and he looks very different now. I ..... him.

## 100.5 Complete these sentences with hardly + any/anybody/anything/anywhere/ever.

- 1 I'll have to go shopping. We've got hardly any food.
- 2 It was a very warm day and there was ..... wind.
- 3 'Do you know much about computers?' 'No, .....'
- 4 The hotel was almost empty. There was ..... staying there.
- 5 I listen to the radio quite often but I ..... watch television.
- 6 Our new boss is not very popular. .... likes her.
- 7 It was very crowded in the room. There was ..... to sit.
- 8 We used to be good friends but we ..... see each other now.
- 9 It was nice driving this morning. There was ..... traffic.
- 10 I hate this town. There's ..... to do and ..... to go.

- 12 a small black metal box
- 13 a big fat black cat
- 14 a lovely little old village
- 15 beautiful long black hair
- 16 an interesting old French painting
- 17 an enormous red and yellow umbrella

**98.2**

- 3 the last two days
- 4 the first two weeks of September
- 5 the next few days
- 6 the first three questions (of the examination)
- 7 the next two years
- 8 the last three days of our holiday

**98.3**

- 2 tastes awful or tasted awful
- 3 feel fine
- 4 smell nice
- 5 look wet
- 6 sounds quite interesting or sounded quite interesting

**98.4**

- 2 happy 5 terrible
- 3 happily 6 properly
- 4 violent

**UNIT 99****99.1**

- 2 badly 5 unexpectedly
- 3 easily 6 regularly
- 4 patiently

**99.2**

- 3 selfishly 8 badly
- 4 terribly 9 badly
- 5 sudden 10 safe
- 6 colourfully 11 angrily
- 7 colourful

**99.3**

- 2 careful
- 3 continuously
- 4 happily
- 5 fluent
- 6 specially
- 7 complete
- 8 perfectly
- 9 nervous
- 10 financially / completely

**99.4**

- 2 seriously ill
- 3 absolutely enormous
- 4 slightly damaged
- 5 unusually quiet
- 6 completely changed
- 7 unnecessarily long
- 8 badly planned

**UNIT 100****100.1**

- |        |        |         |
|--------|--------|---------|
| 2 good | 6 well | 9 well  |
| 3 well | 7 well | 10 good |
| 4 good | 8 good | 11 well |
| 5 well |        |         |

**100.2**

- 2 well-known
- 3 well-kept
- 4 well-balanced
- 5 well-informed
- 6 well-dressed
- 7 well-paid
- 8 Well done! (2 separate words)

**100.3**

- 2 right
- 3 right
- 4 wrong – hard
- 5 right
- 6 wrong – slowly

**100.4**

- 2 hardly hear
- 3 hardly slept
- 4 hardly speak
- 5 hardly said
- 6 hardly changed
- 7 hardly recognised

**100.5**

- 2 hardly any
- 3 hardly anything
- 4 hardly anybody / hardly anyone
- 5 hardly ever
- 6 Hardly anybody / Hardly anyone
- 7 hardly anywhere
- 8 hardly ever
- 9 hardly any
- 10 hardly anything ... hardly anywhere

**UNIT 101****101.1**

- |          |                |
|----------|----------------|
| 4 so     | 10 such a      |
| 5 so     | 11 so          |
| 6 such a | 12 so ... such |
| 7 so     | 13 so          |
| 8 such   | 14 such a      |
| 9 such a | 15 such a      |

**101.2**

- 3 I was so tired (that) I couldn't keep my eyes open.
- 4 We had such a good time on holiday (that) we didn't want to come home.
- 5 She speaks English so well (that) you would think it was her native language. or She speaks such good English (that)...